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## THE TEST OF VALUE

TO SCIENTIFIC investigation in chemistry, mechanics, biology and most other things the modern mind brings judgment based upon an observation of the facts. Generalizations are not attempted until many facts have been observed.

But judgments on social inventions, on laws, customs and institutions, are still attempted by the scrutiny of one or two facts, or none, or more likely by a consideration of preconceptions in the mind of the one who offers the judgment.

There would be fewer editorials on the failure of the presidential primary if there were more editors who used the approved tools.

A little study of the ballot, how it was obtained, and how it is used, will serve to show anybody that after many years of manhood suffrage it is not applied by every voter at each opportunity.

That the primary, a subordinate use of the ballot, should be more scantily patronized, is not a source of amazement, but what should be expected.

The ballot is not to be condemned as a social tool because, Jones, Murray, Smith and Schmidt have not voted in 20 years, nor because only five persons appeared in the last town meeting. The tool is there to use, when the owner desires. His failure to use it is of no more consequence than his failure to make constant use of a typewriter or of a rifle in the attic, or of a revolver, kept for a burglar greeting.

Nor is it true that the primaries are not showing what the people want. They want Woodrow Wilson. If they didn't want Wilson, candidates would be in the field by the myriad as they are in the Republican party.

Observation of ballot results proves that the people do not ordinarily waste energy. If a thing is to go pro forma, the vote is small.

The ballot in the Republican primaries is also instructive. It proves wherever it is taken, that about twice as many Republicans do not want Roosevelt, as want him. And the vote tends to prove, by reasonable inference, that multitudes of Republicans are satisfied to let well enough alone. They want Wilson. They want to keep things as they are. They want peace. So the Republican primaries are the expression of bitterly partisan persons, who carry on politics as politics, but who do not influence the great rank and file of the Republican party.

The direct primary is valuable in this. Like a burglar alarm, or a spring rifle in a melon patch, its very presence tends to make its active use unnecessary.

Congress and law makers everywhere have shown themselves most sensitive to the needs of the people, since direct nominations were installed, and there is not the desire for change that existed before the primaries were adopted.

Direct primaries, the initiative and referendum and the recall are protective institutions, which do their best work by merely being on call.

## WAR AND SOCIAL STABILITY

AMERICANS FEEL a glow of pride in the belief that their president will be asked to mediate for peace in Europe. Yet there seems now but little probability that such mediation could be successful, or even welcome.

Nobody is whipped, and nobody is exhausted. Germany lies behind trenches carried far forward into Russia and France. For the present no terms could be agreed upon that did not put Germany behind her boundaries as they were before the war. And there is no reason to suppose that Germany would consent to any such arrangement.

The safer view is that the war will go on until somebody has had enough. This time seems a long way off; at least a year off, and perhaps two, three, or four years off.

The view that war would end by financial exhaustion becomes more and more untenable. The cost of war has increased, but so has the productive power of the nations, and in a larger degree.

So far as anyone can see the nations are better able to make what they need to carry on war, and support the civilian population, than they were at the beginning. The latent power of the peoples has been mobilized, and the result, industrially, is a tremendous output of necessary commodities.

It is possible that a scarcity of commodities may end the conflict, though this is distinctly less probable than before Germany acquired so much territory. Her armies have access to food supplies, to copper and to gasoline that did not exist when the war began.

The exhaustion of men, a quick road to the breaking down of national will, is a further element. But it would appear men are being born almost as fast as they are being killed.

The war has proved a stability in modern society far beyond that of any former age. The maximum figures formerly given as to the total number of men available for fighting in any nation, about 12 per cent., must be increased. They were made in days when nations had not the organization to socialize industrial plants, and before it was possible to use women to carry on complex operations in manufacture.

No limit to the length of the war can be set. It is not impossible that the fighting can go on for five, ten or even twenty years. The forces of civilization are training the untrained to carry on industry, that more and more men may go to the front. Wars have lasted for more than twenty years, at a time when relatively Europe was less able to carry them on, than it is now.

## THE FARM LOAN BILL

THE RURAL CREDITS legislation is probably not a perfect law. It will be improved as experience shows the way. The law does however represent a revolutionary change in the mind of congress, and is something that could scarcely have flowered to fruition in the days of ancient machine rule.

Not the Democracy entirely, but new men coming to power, fresh from the people, have made this great legislation possible. And the power of these new men to do this new and wise thing has been increased by the quantity of direct power that has been lodged in the body of the people, during the last ten years.

Who would have dreamed four years ago of a Congress and

a president so free from the taint of privilege as to bring into being the federal reserve act, the shipping law and the rural credits law? Only those who could foresee the tide of unparalleled prosperity that has followed upon this setting free of the talents of the nation.

The rural credits law is not a hasty compilation, it is a legitimate outgrowth of European practice, plus American education. Its terms have been in the minds of President Wilson and his advisers, since they came to power. The germ of it appeared when the treasury department advanced funds for the movement of crops, in the first year of the president's term.

Reasonable men everywhere will be inclined to say Amen to this just comment of the new law by the Springfield Republican:

"It is one of the greatest constructive measures for the benefit of American farmers ever enacted by congress. In connection with the federal reserve system the land banks must signalize the completion of a reorganization of American finance unparalleled since the civil war."

Its passage reflects added glory to the National Democratic administrators.

## WANT CONCRETE ROADS

THE GOOD roads movement in Connecticut is for concrete highways and against Warrenite. That concrete is the best material for highways is now the consensus among experts throughout the United States. Nowhere in the world can be found expert road builders who will put the seal of approval upon Bridgeport's effort to lay a country road surface upon its busy streets, at \$1.52 per square yard.

## MANY NATIONS WILL OBSERVE PEACE FESTIVAL

This is "Peace Day," and, while most of the nations of Europe are too busily engaged in war to observe the festival, the peace societies in many neutral nations will celebrate the day. Peace Day commemorates the anniversary of the opening of the Universal Peace Congress at The Hague on May 18, 1899. This international gathering attracted delegates from twenty-six governments, and was called by Nicholas II., Czar of Russia. In his rescript calling upon the world powers to meet for a discussion of the desirability of calling a halt in the race for military supremacy, the Czar lamented the great burden of taxation which had been placed upon the shoulders of all European peoples by the feverish preparation for war, and the consequent diversion of effort from peaceful and productive pursuits.

The opening of the Peace Congress in the Dutch capital seventeen years ago to-day was an impressive occasion, but it was soon apparent to all that the mutual jealousies and hatreds of the powers were too strong to be overcome. While the delegates from some of the nations seemed to be in a receptive mood, others among the peace delegates were openly belligerent. The spokesman for the German Emperor asserted in the most emphatic language that the Teuton empire did not intend to surrender its crushing burden, and stated that Germany would not consider for a moment any proposal whatsoever for any limitation or reduction of armament. The German stand left no room for argument or further consideration of the question of the limitation of armament, but the congress took up the problem of the arbitration of international quarrels, and agreed upon the establishment of a Permanent Court of Arbitration at The Hague. Arbitration between nations was nothing new, for scores of difficulties had been settled in that way during the preceding century, but a permanent court, with members from all nations, represented a great step in advance. While the present war may seem to have nullified all the work of the Hague court, there is no real reason to doubt that this tribunal will play an important part in the settlement of peaceful means of future international controversies.

The court at The Hague has handed down decisions in thirteen cases, by far the most important of these having been the Newfoundland fisheries dispute between Great Britain and the United States. Cases affecting France, Germany, Norway, Sweden, Russia, Turkey, Italy, Peru, Mexico and Venezuela have also been decided by the international tribunal.

The peace movement may be said to have had its beginning in the first century of the Christian era, when Vespasian, the Roman Emperor, dedicated a temple to peace. The modern peace propaganda, however, is just a century old, having been inaugurated in 1816 by the New York Peace Society. Similar organizations were effected in many other American cities, and in 1828 these were merged into the American Peace Society, which is still in existence and which maintains headquarters in Washington. At about the same time peace movements were launched in Great Britain, France and other countries, and in 1843 the first International Peace Congress was held in London. Another international gathering to favor the peace cause was held in Brussels in 1848, and a third in Paris the following year. Since then more than a score of such gatherings have been held in various cities of Europe and America. The conference at The Hague in 1899 represented the culmination of these years of effort and, although it failed in its primary object, there is yet ground for hope that at some time in the future its anniversary may be observed as a real "Peace Day" by all nations.

## THE BIRTH OF ISLANDS

The first of the Bogoslof group of the Aleutian Islands was "born" 120 years ago to-day, May 18, 1796. On that date there was a great convulsion in the Bering Sea, about twenty-five miles north of Unalaska, and an island appeared above the surface of the stormy waters. This islet, which rose to a height of nearly 3,000 feet above sea level, was christened Bogoslof by the Russians, who then owned Alaska. It remained solitary and alone until 1882, when another volcanic eruption in the sea was followed by the birth of another island near the first. For two years the new island was the scene of an active eruption. Then it cooled gradually, and, like the first islet, became the home of seals and sea lions and the breeding grounds for sea birds. The third of the Bogoslof group was born ten years ago. The "baby" was smaller than its elder sisters, being about a third of a mile in diameter and with an altitude of some 600 feet, but the following year another convulsion of nature resulted in nearly doubling its area. Since then several other islands have been born in various parts of the Aleutian chain.

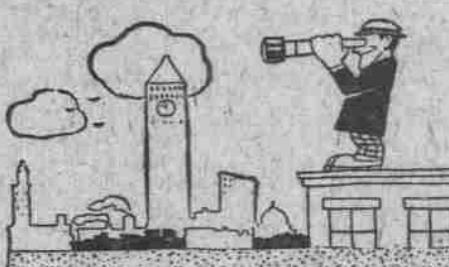
## EARTHQUAKE IN ITALY.

Rome, May 18.—An earthquake of particular violence has occurred along the Adriatic coast between Rimini and Cesena. At the latter town a dozen people were injured by the fall of cornices. Father Alfani, director of the observatory at Florence, predicts a repetition of the earthquake which extends to the Venetian provinces.

## FOUR ORPET JURORS CHOSEN.

Waukegan, Wis., May 18.—With but four men tentatively accepted by prosecution and defense as prospective jurors, the trial of Joseph Orpet, University of Wisconsin student charged with the murder of Marian Lambert, was continued today. More than 130 men were examined yesterday, of whom but one escaped.

An initial dividend of \$1.50 per share was declared by the Saxon Motor Car Corporation.



## IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR THE HOME OF GOOD RAINCOATS

You will find your size in the style of a Rubber Coat you want here.

They are not the shopworn kind either—every one is new.

## GUARANTEED

Men's Coats ..... \$4.50 to \$6.50  
Boys' Coats ..... 2.75 to 3.25  
English Slip-Ons. 4.50 to 12.00  
Ladies' Coats ..... 4.25 to 10.00

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CO-OPERATIVE—CAR FARE FOR CUSTOMERS  
PROFIT SHARING WITH EMPLOYEES

## COUPON GOOD FRIDAY, MAY 19

25 FEET LENGTHS  
ONE-HALF INCH  
RUBBER HOSE  
With Couplings Friday  
\$1.50 LENGTH

Here is a splendid quality garden or lawn hose at a very special price.

Our regular three-quarter inch hose, coupled complete, four ply, \$1.98; five ply, \$2.48 for 25 feet.

Garden tools probably cheaper than most stores.

Special bargain, one only, vacuum cleaner, regular price \$12.50, will sell for \$6.00.

## The D.M. Read Co.

Established 1857

The May Invitation Sale Continues  
All Sections Represented

## In the Picture Gallery

It is very pleasant to linger and rest in the little Picture Gallery and it takes one in imagination very far. He may wander by country roads that lead up hill by blossoming orchards; he may look at the columns of the Forum or the Gothic beauty of the Rheims Cathedral, both exterior and interior, all unmarred. All the company portrayed by Franz Hals, Van Dyke, Romney and Reynolds, will greet him silently and prove interesting companions.

But there are Pictures at special prices in this May Invitation Sale as is to be expected. It comes with other good things. But the subjects, the appropriateness of framing, the good taste shown, all these are a genuine surprise.

In these several collections as quoted below, all are at half original prices:

At \$1.00 Small Canvas Paintings, reproductions of old masters' works.

Venice, Cows in Midstream, The Music Lesson and several by Rosetti. Former prices from \$2.00 to \$2.50.  
Color Prints. Corot's Nymphs, Reynolds' Innocence, Henner's "La Pleureuse," Romney's Lady Hamilton.

At \$1.25 Color Prints of large size, frames of powdered gilt.

Ruysdael's Dutch Mill, Corot's Le Lac, Israel's Frugal Meal, Breton's Lark's Song.

At \$2.00 Large Color Prints, 22 x 16. Dull gilt frames.

Israel's Anxious Moments, Benson's Rainy Day, Dupre's Uphill Road, Richard's August Moon.

At \$3.00 and \$4.50 Thompson Color Prints.

Very pleasing pictures of New England landscapes and interiors, suitable for any rooms, always charming to look at.

Fourth floor.

## Chamber Furniture



At no time in the history of the Read House has there been a more complete and satisfactory showing of Chamber Furniture than this spring. Attention is here directed to a late arrival, a Louis XVI Set of ivory white enamel with panels of fine French cane, adorned with the characteristic rope border and rosettes which denote the style. This is a perfect reproduction of the period, simple, dignified, and charming. At present it is in the bedroom of the Exhibition Suite. Do not fail to see it.

## Special Sets in the Invitation Sale

Ivory Enamel Sets. No furniture is so light and cheerful, and it takes so pleasantly to graceful draperies. With flowered cretonnes or chintzes a room becomes a veritable bower of delight.

## Sets at \$88.50

Birdseye Maple Sets, \$98.00 and \$115.00. This beautifully polished wood is white like old ivory when new, retains its color and lustre for a long time, and grows golden with the years.

Colonial Mahogany for those who like dignity combined with grace. Four-post Bed, large Dresser and Dressing Table, was \$115.00, for \$92.00.

## Household Necessities

Noxall Furniture Polish, 12 oz. bottle, 25 cts  
Handy Household Oil, With spout can, 8 cts  
Campbell Silver Polish, 8 cts jar  
Black Knight Stove Polish, 8 cts  
Silex Scouring Soap, 4 for 10 cts  
Kirkman's Scouring Powder, 3 for 10 cts  
Lux (soap flakes), 3 for 25 cts  
Brooks' Furniture Renovator, 10 cts can  
U. S. Laundry Soap, 4 for 10 cts  
Dutch Cleanser, 7 cts can  
Ozone, Ivory and Fels Naptha, 4 cts cake  
Gold Dust (4 lb pkg.), 19 cts  
Gas Toasters of sheet iron, 19 cts  
White Enameled Combinets, \$1.35  
White Enamel Bowls and Pitchers, \$1.45 set  
Galvanized Pans, 42 cts

## Stamped Pieces at the Art Section

Pillow Cases, 45 cts. pair.  
Scalloped or hemstitched 50 cts. pair.  
Night Dresses, 50 cts.  
Children's Dresses, 45, 69, \$1.00  
Towels, 19, 30, 45 cts.  
Bibs, 11 cts.  
Crosstitch Scarves, 19 cts.  
Centers, 29 cts.  
Pillows, 29 cts.  
Long Kimonos, pin or blue, 85 cts.  
Short Kimonos, 45 cts.  
Bureau Scarves, white linen, 45, 60, 85 cts.  
Fudge Aprons, 45 cts.  
Pique collar and cuff sets, 30 cts.  
Lawn collar and cuff sets, 19 cts.  
Cretonne Laundry Bags, 45 cts.

## Domestic Section

Unbleached muslin, 2 yds. wide, 23 cts.  
2½ yds. 27 cts.  
4 yd. 7, 8 and 10 cts.  
White muslin, 2 yds. 25 cts.  
2½ yds. 30 cts.  
1 yd. 6, 8 and 10 cts.

## Sheets and Pillow Cases

Sheets, 72 x 90-inch 75 cts.  
81 x 90-inch 85 cts.  
81 x 99-inch 90 cts.  
81 x 90-inch good quality 75 cts.

Pillow Cases, 42 x 36-inch 17 cts.  
45 x 36-inch 19 cts.

Fringed Quilts, \$1.50, \$2.00 and \$2.75  
Hemmed Quilts, \$1.35, \$1.50 and \$1.75

## Sport Ties

With Hatbands to match

Of Crepe de Chine, stripes and dots blue, green and pink on pongee grounds.

\$1.00 the set

50 cts separately

Quite new

Neckwear Section.

The D.M. Read Co.

Established 1857